March 1976

The MESSENGER

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

ST. STEPHEN'S & Milnrow Littleborough

Price: 4p

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

arch		
on. 1st	6.30pm	Pilots (& each Monday)
ue. 2nd	7.30pm	Ladies Guild - NROWEB demo.
ed. 3rd	2.00pm	Young Mums (& each Wednesday)
	7.30pm	Whist Drive (& each Wednesday)
ri. 5th		WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:
	2.30pm	St. Stephens
	7.30pm	Ogden
un. 7th	11.00am	Rev. A. Nash
	6.00pm	Service of Word and Sacrament
ed.10th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Sat.13th		Provincial Synod at Darwen
Sun.14th	11.00am	Mr W.Caffrey (Heywood)
	6.00pm	Mrs M. Nash
Mon.15th	7.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer - follow-up meeting.
Wed.17th	7.30pm	Junior Church Staff Meeting
	2.30pm	Provincial Ladies Rally at Providence, Middleton; Speaker: Dr B. Caird.
Fri.19th	2.00pm	Good-as-new Sale)Organised by
	7.00pm	Jumble Sale) Ladies Guild
Sun.21st	11.00am	Rev. A. Nash
	6.00pm	" " "
Tue.23rd	7.30pm	Ladies Guild Committee Meeting
Sat.27th	3.00pm	to 5.00pm District Missionary Rally at Castleton
	7.30pm	Dancing Display - Organised by Young Mum's for Heating Fund
Sun.28th	11.00am	Mrs M. Nash
	6.00pm	Rev. A. Nash
Wed.31st	7.30pm	Church Meeting

FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

Mar. 7th	Miss M. Wood	
14th	Mrs A. Tither	Mrs J. Harrison
21st	Miss I. Tither	Mrs A. Baines
28th	Mrs E. King	

BIBLE READINGS FOR MARCH

Mar. 7th	Man and God co-operate	John 6 1-13
14th	The Messiah recognized	Mark 8 27-38
21st	The Leader calls	Mark 1 14-20
28th	The power at work among us	Ephes. 3 1-13

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

March		
Wed. 3rd	6.45pm	Pilots
Fri. 5th		World Day of Prayer
Sun. 7th	10.30am	Mr J. Lord
Wed. 10th	7.00pm	PILOTS SPECIAL EFFORT PLEASE COME!
Sun. 14th	10.30am	Rev. A. Nash
	6.00pm	" " " Communion
Tue. 16th	7.30pm	Womens Guild A.G.M.
Wed. 17th	6.45pm	Pilots
Thu. 18th		Reception of JUMBLE! JUMBLE!
Fri. 19th	7.00pm	JUMBLE SALE FOR JUNIOR CHURCH & COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION Admission - 3p
Sun. 21st		LADIES SUNDAY
	10.30am	Mrs M. Nash
	6.00pm	Mrs A. Collinge
Wed. 24th	6.45pm	Pilots
Sun. 28th	10.30am	Rev. A. Nash - Mothering Sunday
Mon. 29th	7.30pm	Church Meeting
Tue. 30th	7.45pm	Busy Bees Effort - All Welcome Admission 10p.
April		
Thu. 1st	7.30pm	Men's Fellowship - Open Meeting Mrs M. Lord (Lancashire Dialect)
Sat. 3rd	7.15pm	FAMILY SOCIAL! Bedlam Drive, Whist Drive, games, dancing - DON'T FORGET!!

???? For your information a "Bedlam Drive" is ???
???? a bit like a Beetle Drive except that you???
???? draw faces instead of beetles. ???

(No comment! Ed)

From the Manse,
March, 1976

My dear friends,

The lane was steep and the road itself possessed more than enough potholes. After one particular rough patch there was a sharp bang from under the bonnet of the car and a red light appeared upon the dashboard. Otherwise everything seemed normal. However it is unwise to neglect a warning light, so investigation had to be made to discover that we were miles from anywhere with the fan belt broken. Fortunately a piece of sash cord fixed things up, and away we went to hunt for the nearest garage.

Running repairs are necessary at times. Their purpose is to tide one over the immediate difficulty until something more effective and lasting can be done. Some folk are however quite content to run along on the tmeporary repair and are happy enough so long as it lasts. Very few people find that life runs along smoothly all the time. True, most situations that arise can be coped with fairly reasonably, but there are times when we need to turn urgently to God and ask for help in circumstances that are particularly trying. The crisis passes and we run on again content with the temporary repair.

There is, however, a much better way than seeking God's help only for the occasional difficulty. It is to develop a fellowship with God that deepens and gives spiritual resources sufficient for every day. This of itself will bring an awareness that there are resources available from God to meet the demands of every situation, but even more than this, we shall find that we are coming to know God Himself. So why be content to run along on a shoestring when so much more is available to you?

May God bless you all,

Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH

Thought for the month:

"God will supply all that you need from His glorious resources in Christ Jesus".
Philippians 4, v.19

HOLY BAPTISM.

On Sunday February 1st

KEELEY WHATMOUGH

daughter of John and Patricia Whatmough of 46 Willows Lane.

--- May God richly bless this little child ---

++++++++

OBITUARY

Mr William Edward Prince of 182 Harbour Lane, aged 68 years.
Funeral February 4th at Rochdale Crematorium

Mrs Bertha Webber, of 77 Newbey Road, aged 85 years.
Funeral February 6th at Rochdale Crematorium

Mrs Annie Wardle, of Radcliffe, aged 83 years
Funeral February 9th at Rochdale Crematorium

Mr Robert Matthew, of 36 Cornfield Street, aged 66 years.
Funeral February 10th at Rochdale Crematorium

Mr Solomon Kinder, of 85 Royds Street, aged 74 years
Funeral February 18th at Hollinwood Cemetery.

Our Minister, Rev. A. Nash conducted the services

May we offer our deepest sympathy to the relatives and friends of those who have now passed on.

THANK YOU!

On behalf of St. Stephen's may we express our gratitude for the sum of £49.00 donated to the Heating Fund by the family and friends of Mr. William Prince.

Mrs Ella Prince would also like to thank the many friends who sent messages of condolence and comfort, gave help, or sent flowers. All have been deeply appreciated.

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WHAT ARE THE PILOTS DOING THESE DAYS?

Although the Pilot Company still officially has no Captain the Officers are showing their worth in several ways.

+ The Monday Evening sessions are well attended by some 24 Children, 6 Officers and a Junior Officer.

+ A new venture called "After Ten" has been launched (nothing Minty in this) It is for Pilots of 10+ who are given the opportunity to stay for a further 45 minutes. There are activities such as table tennis, billiards, and healthy discussions on what to have the following week. We have additions and improvements in mind for the following weeks.

+ Another excitement concerns "CAMP" (deliberately in inverted commas because we are going in a centrally-heated wooden hut with indoor games facilities, bunk beds, hot and cold water and other luxuries) "CAMP" will be in the wind from April 10th-15th. The initial response was overwhelming and then we discovered that only Pilots of 10+ could go, so Mr & Mrs Nash (brave souls) have offered a compensation to younger Pilots in the shape of a Mystery Tour which will take place some time during the Easter Holidays.

Many thanks to Pilots and parents who continue to support us. Thanks too, to the Officers.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

After such a happy time last year we are looking forward to a day of upliftment on Friday, March 5th. As you are aware this is indeed a world-wide day of prayer - the same service being used in every country. This year's service has been compiled by the women of various denominations in Mexico.

We shall meet as follows ---

In St. Stephen's -- at 2.p.m.

A creche will be provided for the children so that Mums can join with us undisturbed.

In Ogden Baptist Church -- at 7.30pm when the Speaker will be Sister Winifred Clark.

Light refreshments will be served after each service in order that we can talk informally together and get to know each other better.

A Follow-up meeting has been arranged for Monday March 15th at 7.30p.m. in St. Stephens

Please do your best to attend at least one of these services.

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THE REVEREND'S REVEZALATIONS

Despite the cold weather and sickness, etc. the Pennine Room provided a very cosy and friendly atmosphere for our Guild Meeting on the 3rd Feb.

The Speaker was our Minister who shared some of his experiences with us, it proved a very enjoyable and entertaining evening and we hope it will not be too long before he is able to join us again.

Let us hope that for our next meeting in March the weather will be kinder and more Ladies will be able to join us for a Cookery Demo by Norweb.

Joan Kay.

The Young Mums present...

A DISPLAY OF DANCING by

Mrs B. Hume's School of Dancing

Saturday 27th March 7.30pm

Tickets available shortly.

This function is in aid of the Heating Fund to which a sum of nearly £31 was donated after the Jumble Sale.

The Young Mums still meet on Wednesday afternoons although a lot of our members have been prevented from attending by sickness lately. Especially, we think of Philip Hey and are relieved to hear he is making progress.

NOW, MEN

The Men's Fellowship got under way in February and we hope to see a lot more there on Monday 15th March at 8.15pm. This invitation is for men of all ages, especially parents of the children who come on Sundays.

UNITY IS STRENGTH

A proposal, made at a Women's World Day of Prayer Meeting, led to a United Prayer Meeting being held recently, at which several churches joined in a worthwhile session. Our Minister led devotions and Rev. Jean Payne closed with the Benediction. Watch this space for news of the next meeting at Moorhouse Methodists.

"SONGS OF PRAISE"

This was a great success which we hope to repeat later in the year. Our thanks, for various contributions go to the Pilots, the Young Mums, the Young People, Derek Lynch, Audrey Baines, Cynthia Hey, Mildred Howarth and Alan Eastwood. This evening of praise to God ran for an hour and a half, but it certainly did not seem that long.

ANOTHER SONG - IN PRAISE

The recent "Songs of Praise" prompts Don Munday to write in favour of FIVE HYMNS in our services.

..."I raised this matter at a Church Meeting previously but it was 'talked out' and no doubt forgotten by most. On this occasion I want to enlarge on my hopes and write what may prove to be food for thought and discussion at some future meeting.

"I get the impression at Church that there are not many who are willing to read the lesson at Family Service. It seems that there are even less who are prepared to lead the Service in prayer, and at the moment we are reduced to one Lay Preacher. Therefore, whilst at a service, the only outward and public opportunity we have of praising our Lord is in song. If we are not able or willing to do it as individuals, I think we should be only too pleased to do it collectively.

"My second point also follows from the Songs of Praise. It started when I was discussing with my daughters the tune used for the first hymn that the Pilots sang. We then started talking about other children's hymns. You know the ones - "Children of Jerusalem", "Jesus Loves Me", "Gentle Jesus, Meek and Mild", "God is Always Near Me", etc. The trouble was they didn't know these hymns that you and I learned in the Beginners and Primary Class at Sunday School, long before Family Church was invented. So where are we going wrong? Why are we depriving our youngsters of the joy of learning these very simple yet very meaningful hymns? Is it too much of an effort for us to sing five hymns in a service?

"In other Family Churches I have attended, at UR Churches, as far apart as Dawlish and Bowness, the second of the five hymns is always a children's hymn. No wonder the youngsters attending service become inattentive - they have no participation.

"Do you want an extra opportunity of praising God? Do you want our children to remain ignorant of these simple hymns?"

+++++Thank you, Don. It makes us think. Will someone, please, react?

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO LIVE ALONE

I live alone, Dear Lord,
Stay by my side,
In all my daily needs
Be Thou my guide.
Grant me good health
For that, indeed, I pray
To carry on my work
From day to day.
Keep pure my mind,
My thoughts, my every deed.
Let me be kind, unselfish,
In my neighbours' need.
Spare me from fire, from flood,
Malicious tongues,
From thieves, from fear
And evil ones.
If sickness or an accident befall,
Then humbly, Lord I pray,
Hear Thou my call.
And when I'm feeling low
Or in despair,
Lift up my heart
And keep me in my prayer.
I live alone, Dear Lord,
Yet have no fear,
Because I feel Your presence,
Ever near.

"MISSION ALIVE"

on

Saturday 27th March

at

Castleton United Reformed Church
From 3pm-5pm Admission 5p

This is a District Missionary Rally
open to people from both churches

Mrs Audrey Baines can give you further details (phone 33482)

FORTIFIED BY HALF CROWN SUPPER

There was a hundred per cent attendance at the AGM of the Junior Church Staff; a gathering at which two naturally silent m.. listened to the discussion monopolised by seven w.... (We must respect the S.. Discrimination Act).

These are jovial gatherings in which serious topics are discussed in a bantering way and no-one dare take umbridge. Next year, however, one member may be taking Phylosan which will be donated by her grateful colleagues in return for the supper which she provided this year on the occasion of her nineteenth, twenty-first birthday.

In a regal way, one member present announced that a "crown" had been broken and it must have been a real one because it certainly didn't stop her scoffing her supper in her usual manner.

Less any readers are inclined to say "Tut,Tut" at such light-hearted staff meetings, it might be appropriate to say that they were preparing a lesson on "Loving In And Through The Church".

It was, perhaps, a Divine Providence, which intervened on these proceedings, when the shortness of the flex to a tape-recorder microphone brought all members present to their knees. An appropriate ending to an evening of excellent fellowship.

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ACHIEVEMENT

Sixtyseven years separate Mrs Rimmer and Miss Butterworth, but to them both we extend our sincere congratulations.

Mrs Rimmer of Harehill Court was 80 years old on February 11th.

Susanne Elaine Butterworth aged 13 and one of our Junior Church Members, was crowned at the Town Hall as "Rochdale's Junior Carnival Queen" after being chosen out of twentythree other contestants.

To both we send our very best wishes.

CUT OUT AND KEEP

THIS DIARY

OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MARCH	10th	Wednesday	Pilots' Open Evening
	19th	Friday	Jumble Sale for Junior Church and CWM
	21st	Sunday	Ladies Day
	28th	Sunday	Mothers Day
April	3rd	Saturday	Family Social
	16th	Friday	United Service (Victoria St. Methodists)
	25th	Sunday	Junior Church Anniversary
June	6th	Sunday	Whit Sunday United Service
	13th	Sunday	Young People's Service Missionary Boxes received
Sept.	26th	Sunday	Harvest Festival
Oct.	15th	Friday	Jumble Sale-Ladies Guild
	30th	Saturday	Family Social
Nov.	20th	Saturday	Autumn Fair
Dec.	12th	Sunday	Toy Service Missionary Boxes received
	19th	Sunday	Carol Service
	25th	Saturday	Christmas Day Service

.....SO DON'T FORGET!!

YOU SAID IT

We know that sarcasm is one of the less exalted forms of wit, but we cannot resist quoting the following submission precisely as we received it.

"The Busy Bees-younger Guilders are all putting on weight the result of two recent potato pie suppers and afters. They have also met to arrange efforts to pay for the additional carpeting required in church...."

(No doubt, to protect the creaking floorboards. - back to you Esther)

Actually, the first of these carpets efforts will be held on Mar.30th at 7.45 This will be in the form of a Bargain Party with seconds from a well-known chain store. Tickets price 10p (inc. refreshments!!) on sale from Busy Bees and Younger Guilders.

CONCERT & OPEN EVENING

C ome to Church and pray to God,
O pen our hearts and fill them with courage
N ever sin, for God is near
C ome to the concert, it wont be dear
E ven though you feel lowly and glum
R oam over here and you'll have fun
T rust us and come, support us do,
and someday we'll return a favour for you.

Here is an invitation written by one of our senior pilots inviting you to our

CONCERT AND OPEN EVENING

on
Wednesday 10th March
at
7-15pm

10p Adults 5p Children

We invite you to come and enjoy,
x An exhibition of Pilots' work
x A Book Stall
x Raffle
x Concert
x Coffee or Orange
x Buns
xxxxxxxxxxbut especially THE CONCERT

Please support our effort to raise funds for Pilot activities in general and the April Camp in particular.

If you have any books for the book-stall, please bring them to Church between now and April 10th so we can price them for sale.

HELP

Several Pilots will be taking part in a Quiz and Games Competition against other Pilot Companies in the North West Area on Friday 5th March at 7pm-9pm. If anyone could offer transport for that evening we should be very grateful of a lift to Heaton Moor URC, Stockport.

To the competing Pilots - Good luck!!

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

Mar. 7th	Mr E. Holt	Mr R. Mullen
14th	Mr H.N. Hill	Mr J. Lord am
	Mr F. Beattie	Mrs Crossley pm
21st	LADIES SUNDAY	
28th	Mrs Stott	Mr J. Hill
Apr. 4th	Mr J. Holt	Mr F. Beattie

ELDERS COMMUNION ROTA

Mar. 14th	Mr Nairn	Mr Simpson pm
28th	Mr Beattie	Mr Lord am

COFFEE ROTA

Mar. 7th	K. Hill	S. Butterworth
14th	S. Moss	A. Wall
21st	A. Merrick	B. Merrick
28th	W. Law	J. Law
Apr. 4th	J. Hobbs	W. Spinks

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

Mar. 7th	R. Mullen
14th	M. Grindrod
21st	H. Vincent
28th	M.G. Hill
Apr. 4th	P. Lightfoot

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

Mar. 7th	Mrs Walker
14th	Mrs Hill
21st	Mrs Crossley and Mrs Williams
28th	Mrs Cockroft
Apr. 4th	Mrs Wade

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

Mar. 7th	Mrs J. Duffy	Mrs A. Baines
14th	Mrs F. Rae	Mrs P. Royle
21st	Mrs M. Holden	Kenneth Holden
28th	Mr. J. Harrison	Mr. I. Royle
Apr. 4th	Mr. J. Collins	Stephen Collins

ELDERS ROTA

EVENING DOOR STEWARDS	DUTY ELDER	ORGANIST/PIANIST EVENING WORSHIP
March		
7th Mrs M. Howarth	Mr D. Munday	Mr D. Logan
14th Mr. B. Clough	Mr A. Busill	
21st Mr. A. Sharples	Mr J. Wild	
28th Mr. D. Munday	Mr A. Sharples	
Ap. 4th A. Busill	Mr H. Whitehead	Mr D. Logan

COMMUNION ROTA

Mar. 7th	Mr J. Wild	Mr H. Whitehead
Apr. 4th	Mr B. Clough	Mr A. Sharples

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

Mar. 7th	Mrs E. Smith	Mrs H. Buckley
14th	Mrs E. Busill	Miss I. Tither
21st	Mrs H. Whitehead	Mrs P. Greenhalgh
28th	Mrs J. Duffy	Mrs F. Butterworth
Apr. 4th	Mrs J. Cudworth	Mrs N. Settle

Persons unable to take their appointment as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute

COLLECTIONS

	cash am.	cash pm.	Envelopes	Total
Jan. 4th	6.51	2.34	18.77	27.62
11th	7.12	.87	22.92	30.91
18th	9.01	1.40	16.32	26.73
25th	7.82	1.17	12.29	21.28
	£30.46	£5.78	£70.30	£106.54

MINISTER:

Rev A V J NASH BA
The Manse
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Milnrow

Tel: ROCHDALE 50161

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CHURCH SECRETARIES

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